



Federal Lands Transportation Program Fact Sheet

National Park Service Transportation Revegetation Program (TRP)

Access to and within the National Park System has been a defining experience for generations of visitors.

The National Park Service (NPS) coordinates the planning and implementation of transportation systems that improve the visitor experience and care for national parks by:

- Preserving natural and cultural resources.
- Enhancing visitor safety and security.
- Protecting plant and animal species.
- Reducing congestion.
- Decreasing pollution.

NPS is committed to being a leader in pursuing strategies that can help make park units more enjoyable, cleaner, quieter, and more sustainable for present and future generations.

For more information, visit nps.gov/transportation

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“Landscape revegetation efforts will use seeds, cuttings, or transplants representing species and gene pools native to the ecological portion of the park in which the restoration project is occurring.” – NPS Management Policies 2006



2006 pullout removal during Cactus Forest Loop Drive rehabilitation in Saguaro National Park (NPS Photo)



2007 Cactus Forest Loop Drive obliterated pullout after planting and mulching in Saguaro National Park (NPS Photo)



Seed collection training Rocky Mountain National Park for seed increase at Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Material Center (NPS Photo)

The Transportation Revegetation Program.

Natural landscapes are a major feature of many national parks. Preserving these landscapes is a primary role of the National Park Service (NPS). However, human actions such as construction and road repair can disturb soils and vegetation to the point where natural recovery is simply not possible.

When that happens, NPS personnel must do more than “preserve and protect.” They must find ways to help re-establish and restore the disturbed landscapes and related habitat. Years of practice and research have shown that specific conditions are required to ensure the successful establishment of native plants and the restoration of natural processes.

The Transportation Revegetation Program (TRP) is administered out of the Denver Service Center (DSC). The program’s purpose is to provide expertise, services and access to genetically appropriate plant materials to repair damage to habitat caused by unavoidable road construction and road repair activities required by NPS policy. These efforts protect investments in roadside and bridge infrastructure by addressing soil erosion and stabilization issues, native plant establishment, and exotic plant control.

The scope of the TRP covers all transportation projects that require ground disturbance, from minimal shoulder disturbance to extensive, full reconstruction, or new construction projects disturbing or creating large cut and fill slopes.

Partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Through a partnership established in 1989 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Program, the TRP has the ability to provide access to

Transportation revegetation program

Management Policies 2006

4.4.2.4 Management of Natural Landscapes
"Landscape revegetation efforts will use seeds, cuttings, or transplants representing species and gene pools native to the ecological portion of the park in which the restoration project is occurring..."

9.1.3.2 Revegetation and Landscaping "...Wherever practicable, soils and plants affected by construction will be salvaged for use in site restoration..."

Program Partners

Federal Highway Administration, Office of Federal Lands Highway since 1925

Natural Resource Conservation Service since 1989

Project Team:

National Park Service, Park, Region and DSC, FLH Division Offices, NRCS Liaison, and Plant Material Centers

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adequate quantities of native seed and to propagate plants genetically adapted to project sites and not commercially available. The seed increase and plant propagation take place at specified Plant Material Centers located throughout the United States. This partnership has resulted in many propagation protocols for native plants now used in the native plant industry. NRCS provides technical assistance with soils, erosion control, plant selection, revegetation and project related exotic plant management.

Technical Assistance. The TRP can provide assistance with project planning, restoration plans, native seed collection and processing, plant propagation, project implementation and follow-up as well as providing training and support to park staff. The TRP offers advisors and specialists who can assist transportation projects with all areas of native plant revegetation, site restoration, soil analysis, and related erosion control.

Limited park staffing may require contracting to plan or implement a revegetation project. The Revegetation Program staff can assist with the contracting process, developing scopes of work, cost estimating and proposal reviews.



Bat Cave Draw Parking Lot Carlsbad Caverns National Park before obliteration in 2008. (NPS Photo)

- Recommendation of strategies for plant material acquisition: salvage, seed or cuttings collection, propagation or purchase
- Treatment recommendations for non-native and invasive plants
- Assistance with contracting strategies
- Preparation and oversight of revegetation contracts
- Provision of on-site technical assistance
- Integration of revegetation/restoration into the construction process to ensure successful establishment of native plants



Road shoulder hydroseeding in 2009 with native seed at Olympic National Park (NPS Photo)

In summary, the TRP provides knowledge, skills and resources to re-vegetate transportation project impacts. Assistance to re-vegetate transportation project disturbances includes:

- Preparation or review of project specific strategies and revegetation plans
- Preparation or review of revegetation specifications for contract documents
- Preparation of project estimates and funding requests



Bat Cave Draw Parking Lot Carlsbad Caverns National Park in 2011 after obliteration, seeding and planting. (NPS Photo)